

**This interview with  
JERRY LEE LEWIS  
was conducted by the Library of Congress on  
October 27, 2015.**



*Jerry Lee Lewis*

**LOC: How do you define “rockabilly”?**

JLL: Elvis Presley.

**LOC: “Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On” was first recorded by Big Maybelle. From the first time you heard it, did you know you could and wanted to bring something to it?**

JLL: I knew it was ROCK AND ROLL and I knew I could rock it with the piano.

**LOC: Before you recorded the song, you performed it live at shows. What was audience reaction to it at the time, especially compared to other songs in your repertoire?**

JLL: My audience always rocked to all my songs...but they really ADDED SHAKING TO THIS ONE.

**LOC: Much was said at the time—and ever since—about the song’s alleged risqué-ness. Did you ever face problems with censorship related to the recording or the release of the song?**

JLL: I did face lots of talk and press on it [for] being risqué...but it did not take too long for my audience to overrule and win out...and it was not risqué...it was PURE ROCK AND ROLL.

**LOC: To what do you ascribe the incredible endurance of this particular recording?**

JLL: THAT it is original. ROCK AND ROLL FROM BEGINNING TO END.... Never be another.